

3 November 1995, Morning Minchah      Sus, France

Lightly or Highly Esteemed

Nehemiah had confidence to pray to His Father in heaven. Neh 1:6 — He said he himself was His servant. He had confidence to know Him. He prayed like that night and day before that. He was already on the way of our Father, who was using him, selecting him, taking him back to the Promised Land, and rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. He confessed the sins of Israel, "My fathers sinned against You."

1 Sam 2:30 — If you want to know the true God you have to know the God of Israel. Pr 8:17 — Those who seek Him early are the ones who honor Him. We can despise Him — then we will be lightly esteemed. The glory that we have will not be known. He gives us glory to be in perfect unity. These people aren't lightly esteemed. They don't despise our Master. They live every day for the unity He prayed for. They judge themselves, check themselves, do everything to be in unity. Those who despise Him have little glory, such little glory that you don't even give the time of a day to listen to them.

You can see what the sin of Eli was. We stand in his place today, in the place of the high priest who goes into the throne of grace. Eli honored his sons more than he honored God (1 Sam 2:29).

Gen 22:1-19 — We must emulate this man's faith. This is a different story here. Sometimes God speaks and we don't say, "Here I am." Abraham said, "Here I am." Verse 12 — You didn't begrudge giving Me your only son. Verse 13 — an ascending sacrifice in place of his son. Verse 17 — The gates of hell won't prevail against your seed.

Verse 9-10 — Abraham gave his only son up. Our Father did the same. Mt 10:37-39 — Our Master came with the same gospel. If someone wants to follow Him, he must give up his only son or daughter or whatever he has.

We have to pass through the Jordan River. The sons of Israel passed through the Red Sea and then the Jordan River to go over into something greater. Our Father wants to know our motives. Abraham didn't just leave Ur to look for a better land — it was costlier, it cost him something.

There is a crisis ahead of us to prove our faith. Our faith is tested every day. There is no other way of determining whether God was to be supreme in Abraham's life except through that test. If we don't understand Isaac we don't understand Abraham, and we don't understand the sacrifice. There is no other way to determine whether God would be supreme in our lives. After he made that sacrifice there was no need, no further testing after that. He had passed through it. There is going to be an Isaac to be sacrificed, a Red Sea, a Jordan River. There has to be that in the life of every person. Do we have the faith of Abraham? He gave up his only son. What do we have to give up compared to Abraham?

If we cannot give what we can give now we can't give Isaac when it's time. We can't wait till some day to give up our life, or we will be lightly esteemed. We won't have glory. Abraham had glory. There is no more need to test Abraham after that.

The crisis is the crossroads — it changes your life. You are not the same after you have passed the crisis.

Abraham is the father of faith. He'll be a father of nations. Every day we are trained to deny ourselves in order for that day to come.

Hushai: He provides the grace every day to pass the test. If we seek Him diligently He'll provide everything for us to pass the test. The same tomorrow so that one day we can pass the highest test.

Eli wasn't doing this. He honored his sons more than YHWH. He was lightly esteemed. I guess you know the story. The day came when he fell off the chair and died. He was fat. The ark was taken, his sons were killed.

There is a man in Judah whose son did a terrible act. There were actually two boys from two different families. Both of them had to be *stoned*, sent away from the community. It was a very difficult, hard test for the parents to separate themselves. The boys are such an evil influence for the others. The parents have to go with them and find another place for them in the world and then come back. I'm sure there is no place for that child.

When children are like that it's like every morning lifting up your hands to Satan, saying, "Fill me, I want to be negative, unkind, tear down the community..."

We need to do the same with our God in order to be filled with His Spirit. His parents treat him like Isaac, but they don't even just cut him off. If we don't train our children according to the Word we'll lose them one day. We need to reach their heart.

Abraham was highly esteemed. He had great glory upon him. Let's pray for that glory to come upon us.

We can't just walk in the flesh. We need to honor our Father. He hated Esau, but loved Jacob. He didn't regard Esau. He esteemed him lightly compared to Jacob. There is no middle ground between love and hate.

We need to hate everything that hinders us from walking like a disciple. We need to esteem our Master highly and treat everything else lightly. We need to treat our flesh lightly.

It's so wonderful our Father gives us a time to prepare for the race. The day won't come upon us unprepared. It's only those that don't exercise self-control in all things who will be cut off.

I just cried when I saw how Isaac got off his donkey. When our Master got out of that judgment — well, they put all that wood on Him (the cross). Isaac carried that wood up to that altar. It also tells about that in Heb 11. Isaac was a full-grown youth.